

Annual Report

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT,

During the Year 1937.

J. S. MANSON, M.D., D.P.H.,
DECEASED 24TH OCTOBER, 1937

C. E. W. BOWER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,


Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Area of District	.. .. .	45,400 Acres.
Estimated Population, 1937 (mid-year)	31,290

RUNCORN :

Bellamy & Son, Printers and Stationers, 63, High Street.

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DECEASED 24TH OCTOBER, 1937

C. E. W. BOWER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Area of District 45,400 Acres.

Estimated Population, 1937 (mid-year) 31,290

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—
1938.

MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN.

Name. *Parish Representative.*

Chairman—

*W. S. Looker, Esq., J.P. HALTON.

Vice-Chairman—

§*J. W. Crossley, Esq.	STOCKTON HEATH.
J. Garner, Esq.	ALVANLEY.
	ANTROBUS.
*T. I. Fletcher, Esq.	APPLETON.
*T. C. Shepherd, Esq.	ASTON.
*H. Walton, Esq.	GREAT BUDWORTH.
*G. S. Wallworth, Esq.	DARESBUURY.
F. A. Dutton, Esq.	DUTTON.
*F. Basnett, Esq.	FRODSHAM.
*J. G. Davies, Esq.	FRODSHAM.
H. Helsby, Esq.	FRODSHAM.
*L. Pollard, Esq.	FRODSHAM.
*H. T. Nicholls, Esq.	GRAPPENHALL.
*W. Postons, Esq.	GRAPPENHALL.
W. Fowles, Esq.	HATTON.
*H. Jackson, Esq.	HELSEBY.
*C. Wilkinson, Esq.	HELSEBY.
*J. Hunt, Esq.	KINGSLEY.
T. Gleave, Esq.	MANLEY.
*H. E. Clark, Esq.	MOORE.
*S. Newall, Esq.	NORLEY.
W. Fryer, Esq.	NORTON.
†*H. Lightfoot, Esq.	PRESTON BROOK.
*T. Deakin, Esq.	STOCKTON HEATH.
*E. G. White, Esq.	STOCKTON HEATH.

NAME	PARISH REPRESENTATIVE
J. Hewitt, Esq.	STRETTON.
*P. Moore, Esq.	SUTTON.
*G. F. Hatton, Esq.	WALTON.
J. C. Taylor, Esq.	WHITLEY.
* denotes Member of Public Health and Housing & Building Committee.	
† denotes Chairman of	" "
§ denotes Vice-Chairman of	" "

Officers.

Clerk—

Mr. Stanley Dennett,
Frodsham.

Assistant Clerk—

Mr. J. A. Moorefield,
Frodsham.

Solicitor—

Mr. W. E. Hough, Runcorn.

Medical Officer of Health—

J. S. Manson. M.D., D.P.H., Warrington.
[Deceased 24th October, 1937]

Acting Medical Officer of Health and

Medical Superintendent Dutton Isolation Hospital—

C. E. W. Bower, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond., Stretton.

Public Health Surveyor—

J. O. Hunter, M.I.M. & Cy. E., Frodsham.

Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors.

Budworth Area—

G. W. Lloyd, R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Appleton.
Tel. Stockton Heath 180

Frodsham Area—

Arthur Cooke, M.S.I.A., Sutton Weaver.
Tel. Aston 229.

Matron Dutton Isolation Hospital—

Miss L. Whitehead.
Tel. Aston 201.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Runcorn Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for 1937, together with the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors.

I refer with deep regret to the death on October 24th, 1937, of Dr. J. S. Manson, who has been your Medical Officer of Health since 1920.

1937 is the first complete year since the alterations of District and Parish boundaries took place.

The population, estimated to the middle of 1937, is 31,290, showing an increase of 885. This increase is due partly to excess of births over deaths (66), but mainly to immigration.

The birth rate and death rate are 13.5 and 11.4 respectively. Last year's figures were 13.0 and 11.1. For England and Wales the figures are 14.9 and 12.4 this year.

The infantile mortality rate is 43; for England and Wales 58.

627 houses have been erected during 1937, compared with 482 in 1936 and 447 in 1935.

In the early part of the year a severe epidemic of Influenza prevailed in the district and throughout the country.

A change in hospital policy has taken place this year, whereby cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital from other districts of the County, provided there are beds to spare.

An attempt has been made to popularise diphtheria immunisation by public notices and circulars to medical practitioners.

This year the main drainage scheme which is to serve the north-eastern portion of the area has been successfully completed. It is to be officially inaugurated and brought into use early in 1938.

Adequate sewerage is one of the three essentials of environmental hygiene. This big scheme, the largest of its kind undertaken in the District during recent years, should help to maintain the excellent health statistics of the area which it will serve.

My thanks are due to Mr. Stanley Dennett, the Clerk, Mr. J. O. Hunter, the Public Health Surveyor, and the two Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. G. W. Lloyd and Mr. Arthur Cooke, for their valuable help in all matters pertaining to the health of the district.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

C. E. W. BOWER,

M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 45,765.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population—middle of 1937 (for re adjusted area)—31,290.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books—9,121.

Rateable Value (end of 1937)—£190,962.

Sum represented by penny rate—£796.

This year statistics are based on the Registrar-General's estimated population for the middle of 1937. No modification is necessary, as there has been no alteration of boundaries in 1937.

Agriculture and dairy farming are the chief industries of the district; other industries are tanneries, electric cable, electric fittings, and steel tube works, flour mills and jam works. Recently sand quarrying has been introduced into the district, chiefly at Whitley, also at Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Exact statistics are not available for this area, as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour relate to the areas served by such offices, and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment was low in this area, especially during the summer months, but was somewhat increased in January and again in December.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district. Others are employed on the railways and as porters in canal warehouses.

There are two orphanages, one at Kingsley (350 children), and one at Daresbury (60 children); one open-air school for Jewish children at Norley; two sanatoria at Manley, each accommodating about 300 persons.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1000 of
Legitimate	413	209	204	the estimated resident
Illegitimate	9	4	5	population—13'5.
STILL BIRTHS.	29	19	10	Rate per 1000 total (live
				and still) births—64.
DEATHS.	356	193	163	Death Rate per 1000 of
				the estimated resident
				population, 11'4.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	
		Runcorn R.D.C.	England & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0	0'00
Other Puerperal Causes	0	0 00	0'97
Total	..	0	2 26
		0'00	3'23

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	43
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	41
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	111
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	49
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

There has been a high incidence of pneumonia this year, chiefly associated with the influenza epidemic in January and February.

The causes of the highest mortality were : Heart disease, Cancer, Respiratory diseases.

Inquests were held in 32 cases of death.

ROAD DEATHS, 1937.

Age	Residents Killed in Area	Residents Killed outside Area	Non-Residents Killed in Area
Under 5 years ..	—	—	—
Over 5 & under 15 years	—	—	—
„ 15 „ 45 „	2	—	3
„ 45 „ 65 „	2	—	1
„ 65 years ...	—	—	—

For comparison the following figures are given :—

Year	Popu- lation	Birth rate	Death rate	Infantile Mortality rate
1916	28216	18·2	13·8	—
1917	29163	15·8	11·9	—
1918	27545	15·7	15·6	—
1919	28291	16·0	12·7	—
1920	28242	12·2	10·6	53
1921	29170	17·6	9·9	78
1922	29231	16·2	10·9	55
1923	29200	15·1	10·6	50
1924	29370	14·9	9·9	46
1925	29560	14·2	10·8	64
1926	29660	14·1	9·7	67
1927	29360	13·6	10·2	50
1928	30580	14·1	9·5	41
1929	30940	14·4	10·2	52
1930	30940	13·9	10·2	67
1931	32570	13·7	9·0	39
1932	32570	11·6	10·0	32
1933	32280	12·5	11·6	49
1934	32920	12·9	10·9	49
1935	34140	13·1	11·0	36
1936	30405	13·0	11·1	41
1937	31290	13·5	11·4	43

A table in the appendix gives the birth rate, death rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1937, and comparisons with England and Wales, London and the other great and smaller towns.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The names and qualifications are detailed at the beginning of the Report.

Owing to the death on October 24th of Dr. J. S. Manson, the Medical Officer of Health, the duties of this office were taken over by the Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

II. FACILITIES.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

(i) *Water*.—Chemical analyses are made by the County Analyst, Higher Broughton, Manchester. Bacteriological examinations are made at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

(ii) *Food*.—Analyses are made by the County Analyst at the request of the Inspector under the Foods and Drugs Acts. Unsound food is examined at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

(iii) *Milk*.—Bacteriological examinations and guinea pig inoculations are done at the Runcorn Research Laboratory. 28 samples were submitted in 1937. All were negative.

(iv) Throat swabs and other clinical material are examined at the Runcorn Research Laboratory for the diagnosis of infectious diseases.

Throat Swabs examined in 1937 :—

C. Diphtheria—Positive, 27.

Negative, 167.

Haemolytic Streptococci present, 8.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Two well-equipped ambulances are maintained by the Local Authority. They are garaged at Dutton, in the centre of the area, whence there is easy access to all parts. One is used for infectious cases, and the other for non-infectious and accident cases.

The service is adequate and well managed.

The non-infectious ambulance dealt with 46 cases in 1937, compared with 52 in 1936.

It is desirable that the ambulance facilities provided should be widely known throughout the area, so that full use may be made of them.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

(i) *General*.—The whole of the area is served by 11 Local Nursing Associations. Each employs one trained nurse. These Associations work independently of the County and District Councils. Some of the District Nurses act also as midwives, and are supervised by the County Authority.

(ii) *Infectious Diseases*.—No provision is made for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

These are provided by the County Council as follows :—

Maternity and Child Welfare—

Child Welfare Centres : Methodist Sunday School, Stockton Heath—Alternate Mondays, 2.30 p.m.

Methodist Sunday School, Grappenhall—Alternate Mondays, 2.30 p.m.

29 High Street, Runcorn—Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2.30 p.m.

Ante-natal services : Ante-natal Clinic, 29 High Street, Runcorn—Thursday, 9.30 a.m. Any expectant mother may be examined twice by a doctor of her own choice at her own home.

Orthopœdic Clinic—

Methodist Sunday School, Stockton Heath—Tuesday and Friday, 2.30 p.m.

29 High Street, Runcorn—Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m.

Tuberculosis—

Tuberculosis Dispensary, Memorial Hospital, Runcorn—Thursday, 11 a.m.

School Medical Service—

Minor Ailments Clinic—Methodist Sunday School, Frodsham—Tuesday, 2 p.m.

(c) HOSPITALS.

Dutton Isolation Hospital—36 beds—is under the control of the Runcorn Rural District Council, and is staffed by a Medical Superintendent (who has also acted as Medical Officer of Health since 23rd October, 1937), Matron, Charge Nurse, assistant nurse and probationer nurse. Extra nursing staff is engaged when necessary for special cases. Two porters (one resident) are employed at the hospital. They do ambulance work and disinfection, in addition to their hospital duties.

Provision is made for the employment of a surgical specialist for any case requiring his advice and skill.

During the year resurfacing of the roadway and paths in the grounds has been carried out. Reflooring of the two scarlet fever wards has also been completed.

Arrangements have now been made for the admission of cases from other areas of the County in accordance with the scheme for co-ordination of hospital accommodation throughout the County.

Warrington Corporation Small Pox Hospital at Sankey—The right to send small pox patients to this hospital has been reserved by the Council and an annual subsidy is paid to the Warrington Corporation for this purpose.

Dutton Institution—64 beds. Controlled by Public Assistance Committee of the County. This infirmary is classified for admission of chronic sick cases. Cases requiring special treatment are transferred to Clatterbridge General Hospital (Wirral) and elsewhere.

Voluntary hospitals receiving patients from this area:—

Manchester Royal Infirmary.
 Chester „ „
 Liverpool „ „
 Liverpool Southern Hospital
 Liverpool Ear and Throat Hospital
 Victoria Memorial Hospital, Runcorn
 Warrington Infirmary
 Northwich „ „
 Altrincham General Hospital

There are two private maternity homes in the area, one at Frodsham and one at Grappenhall.

NEW LEGISLATION PUT INTO FORCE IN 1937.

(a) Public Health Act, 1875.—Such of the provisions of Section 171 as incorporate the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to fires.

(b) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.—Section 1 shall apply to sheep, ewes, wethers, rams and lambs as from 1st January, 1938.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (a) *Water*.—No new sources of public water supply in 1937.

(b) *Extension of Water Mains*.—

	<i>Parish.</i>		<i>Size of Main. inches.</i>	<i>Length laid. yards.</i>
1.	Kingsley	... ..	3	144
2.	Manley	... ..	3	570
3.	Antrobus	... ..	3	425
4.	do.	... ..	1½	320
5.	Helsby	... ..	3	224
6.	Frodsham	... ..	3	310
Total				1,993

In addition to the foregoing extensions of small diameter service mains, larger works were successfully carried out by direct labour for the protection of the existing supplies at Frodsham and Helsby, necessitated by the proposed Warrington supplies at Foxhill and Ravenslodge, and comprised the following mains :—

	<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Size of Main. inches.</i>	<i>Length laid. yards.</i>
1.	Helsby & Alvanley	6	900
2.	Alvanley	7	1088
3.	Frodsham	5	821
4.	do.	7	711
5.	do.	9	320
Total			<u>3,840</u>

Fourteen samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination, as follows :—

Budworth Area : 2 satisfactory, 4 unsatisfactory ; total 6.

Frodsham area : 7 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory ; total 8.

The five unsatisfactory supplies have been dealt with as follows :—

1. Two Red Brick Cottages, Thelwall Road, Grappenhall—Town water laid on.
2. Brickfield Cottages, Daresbury—Well cleaned and repaired.
3. Rachel's Cottage, Grappenhall—Town water laid on.
4. Poplar Farm, Daresbury—Town water laid on.
5. Pump and well at Lower Hall Farm, Manley—Pipe supply recommended.

The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

No bacteriological or chemical examinations of the pipe supply from Warrington and Northwich have been made in 1937.

Three samples from Frodsham piped supply, and one sample from Helsby piped supply were examined bacteriologically and chemically. The report was highly satisfactory in both cases.

(c) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Towards the close of the year the large Thelwall (Grappenhall) to Acton Grange (Walton) main drainage scheme was completed. A brochure was issued setting forth in detail full particulars of this scheme. The scheme serves parts of the parishes of Stretton, Appleton, Grappenhall, Stockton Heath and Walton, and had become necessary owing to the rapid building development in the area, and the serious pollution of the rivers and streams and Ship Canal. Briefly, the scheme consisted of internal sewers in Grappenhall, a pumping station and rising main in Grappenhall, a main outfall sewer running parallel to the south bank of the Ship Canal from the Grappenhall-Stockton Heath boundary to Walton, and storm-water tanks and sewage disposal works and main pumping station at Walton. The effluent will flow into the Ship Canal close to the Walton-Moore boundary.

The sewer off Park Lane, Frodsham, has been extended a distance of 340 yards.

Sewage schemes for Great Budworth and Sutton are being planned.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—Complaints of pollution of streams, including Massey Hall stream, in Grappenhall continue. Further internal sewerage in connection with the main drainage scheme now in operation should prevent this.

Pollution of brooks by trade effluent in this parish has been dealt with during the autumn.

A conference was held in October between representatives of the Tanning Companies in Grappenhall and the Surveyor and Medical Officer (the late Dr. Manson), and the Consulting Chemists to the Council with regard to the discharge of the effluent from the tanneries into the Council's sewer. The effluent in its present form is not in a fit state to enter the sewer, but could be rendered harmless after preliminary treatment. The matter is receiving further attention.

Owing to the increase in housing in the Parish of Stretton, the Bradley Brook is now seriously polluted with sewage, and in dry weather gives rise to serious nuisance, and is a serious menace to the dairy farms through which it runs. Further extensions of the main drainage scheme to serve the north end of the parish should prevent this.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—Conversion to water closets from pail closets : Helsby, 1. Conversion to water closets from privies : Dutton, 4.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—A system of refuse removal and disposal was arranged for the Parish of Stretton, and is now working. A similar system is being organised for the Parishes of Hatton, Kingsley, Norley, Albanley, Aston and Dutton.

Only four Parishes—Antrobus, Daresbury, Norton and Whitley—have no refuse disposal system in operation or under consideration. It is desirable that refuse disposal should be controlled throughout the area. There still remain many uncontrolled refuse tips; these should be prohibited as the disposal schemes become operative. Several existing schemes might usefully be extended to include villages and groups of houses in neighbouring parishes.

A most important part of this work is the supervision of trade refuse disposal, especially from premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale. This refuse should be stored in covered bins and removed frequently.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.—

(See reports of Sanitary Inspectors appended).

(iv) *Shops*.—Inspections have been made under the Shops Act, 1934 : No action was necessary. There are 118 shops listed in the Budworth area, and 164 in the Frodsham area.

(v) *Canal Boats*.—Seventeen boats were inspected at the Norton, Preston Brook and Stockton Heath quays. All were satisfactory.

(vi) *Mortuaries*.—The mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

(vii) *Smoke Abatement*—The Council remains a constituent authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its funds for providing special Smoke Inspectors. Classes for training stokers have been established at Warrington and Manchester, and notices advertising these classes have been published in the local press.

(viii) *Swimming Baths and Pools*.—None in this area open to the public.

(ix) *Eradication of bed bugs*—

- (1) No. of (a) Council houses infested 0, disinfested 0.
 „ (b) Other houses „ 7, „ 7.

Of the 7 houses, 4 were in Grappenhall and 3 in Stockton Heath.

- (2) Houses infested were sprayed with “Zaldecide.”
 (3) Bedding is disinfected in steam steriliser. Furniture is in some cases condemned and destroyed.
 (4) Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.
 (5) Frequent visits are made by the Sanitary Inspectors to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing, and to educate the tenants in this respect.

4. *Schools*.—The sanitary condition and water supply of most of the Schools are satisfactory. In some Schools improvements in the closet accommodation is being considered.

The following schools were closed for the periods stated in 1937 :—

Moore Council	18 Jan.	5 days	Influenza
Whitley Council	18 „	5 days	„
Preston Brook Council...	19 „	4 days	„
Grappenhall C. of E. ...	22 „	8 days	„
Stockton Heath Council	22 „	8 days	„
Stockton Heath C. of E.	22 „	8 days	„
Thelwall C. of E.	23 „	7 days	„
Halton C. of E. Gram.	27 „	3 days	„
Manley C. of E.	23 Apl.	15 days	Measles
Alvanley	7 May	5 days	„

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Home Office Form 572.

(Section 132, Factory & Workshop Act, 1901).

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	NUMBER OF		
	Inspec- tions (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	112	5	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	112	5	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			Number of Offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
*Other Nuisances	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts—				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (S101)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	—

* The "Other Nuisance" mentioned in paragraph 2 above was a blocked drain.

Outwork in unwholesome Premises, Section 108.
There is nothing to report under this section in this Area.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

NEW HOUSES IN 1937.

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority 28

Number of new houses erected by other bodies
and persons 599

Total 627

Parishes	Total per Parish	
	Private	Local Authority
Alvanley	1	—
Antrobus	9	—
Appleton	48	4
Aston	4	—
Budworth (Great)... ..	1	—
Daresbury	2	—
Dutton	7	—
Frodsham	17	16
Grappenhall	181	—
Halton	17	—
Hatton	6	2
Helsby	118	—
Kingsley	13	6
Manley	5	—
Moore	6	—
Norley	3	—
Norton	—	—
Preston Brook	—	—
Stockton Heath	100	—
Stretton	16	—
Sutton	8	—
Walton	34	—
Whitley	3	—
Totals	599	28

HOUSING INSPECTION.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 419

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 419

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 316

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 316

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 202

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. 240

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A. Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing, Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) by Owners 4

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 33

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) by Owners 30

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 13

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 10

D. Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.*

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	58
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	58
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	374
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	14
(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	128½
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

This analysis shows that there are 58 houses overcrowded at the end of the year—exactly the same number as at the end of 1936, but the number of persons concerned in such houses is 374—compared with 404 at the end of 1936.

Of the 20 cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 3 have been rehoused in Council houses, 9 removed to larger houses, 3 inmates reduced, 4 marriage of son or daughter, 1 extension to house. 24 houses are licensed for slight temporary overcrowding at end of 1937, 11 new licences having been issued during the year, and 2 withdrawn. The net result shows that 34 new houses are required in various parishes to meet the requirements of the 1935 Act.

469 houses (8.4% of those surveyed) were inhabited by one or two persons.

New Houses Erected—

	by Local Authority.	by other persons.	Total.
1931	12	142	154
1932	14	324	338
1933	6	401	407
1934	Nil	622	622
1935	12	435	447
1936	8	474	482
1937	28	599	627

7 Council houses at Kingsley, 2 at Alvanley, 16 at Frodsham and 4 at Appleton were in course of construction at the end of the year. Sites have been chosen for the erection of 14 Council houses—in Frodsham 2, Grappenhall 6 and Helsby 6—and will be erected in 1938.

Assuming that the 34 cases of overcrowding unlicensed are to be rehoused in Council houses, the following types would be required, according to the size of the families concerned :—Type A—8, Type B—9, Type C—10, Type D—4, Type E—3.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.*(a) Milk Supply.—*

	Budworth Frodsham		Total.
	Area.	Area.	
No. of Producers registered	168	251	419
No. of Retail Dairymen registered...	46	71	117
No. of Producers of Accredited Milk	83	136	219
No. of Cowsheds "improved" in 1937	7	20	27
No. of Samples examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli ...	12	12	24
No. of these Samples found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	0	1	1
No. of Adverse Reports from outside Authorities	4	0	4

More than half the producers registered in the area are producers of accredited milk.

With regard to the milk sample found to contain Tubercle Bacilli, this is the only case reported in three years. The case was dealt with by veterinary inspection of the herd and elimination by slaughter of the affected beast.

Four reports of unclean milk and high bacterial count and presence of B. Coli were dealt with by visits of the Sanitary Inspectors to the farms concerned, and repeated tests until a clean milk was obtained.

Periodical inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

No. of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	1
" do. do. Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	4
do. do. Accredited Milk ...	219
do. licensed to bottle and sell Accredited Milk	0
No. of Pasteurisers' Licences ...	0

* This figure includes Arley Dairy Farm, in the Parish of Antrobus, which commenced to produce T.T. Milk in November, 1937.

A case of Undulant Fever, or Bacillus Abortus infection, was discovered in a cowkeeper and confirmed by blood examination. The cows were examined by a County Veterinary Officer, who reported no evidence of disease. The case was isolated and the necessary steps were taken to protect the milk supply from this farm.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*—

MEAT—The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors. Details of their work are given in their appended Reports.

Locally killed meat is inspected at the Slaughterhouses, and also where exposed for sale.

A great deal of the meat consumed in the district is retailed from motor vehicles and is thus more liable to be contaminated with dust and flies.

OTHER FOODS—The Sanitary conditions of bake-houses and other places where food is prepared or exposed for sale are good.

All licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, were renewed.

No meat marking scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	—	1456	—	5564	3559
No. inspected	—	105	—	568	1619
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	8	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	7.6	—	—	0.1

(c) *Adulteration, etc.*—I am indebted to Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, for the following report of the work of his Department in the Runcorn Rural District during 1937 :—

SAMPLES OBTAINED DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

SAMPLE	No. OBTAINED	ADULTERATED OR NOT UP TO STANDARD
Butter	1	—
Cheese (Cheshire)	1	—
Cod Liver Oil	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—
Ginger (Ground)	1	—
	—	—
<i>Carried forward</i> ...	5	—

SAMPLES OBTAINED *Continued.*

SAMPLE	No. OBTAINED	ADULTERATED OR NOT UP TO STANDARD
<i>Brought forward</i> ..	5	—
Gregory Powder	1	—
Icing Sugar	1	—
Iodine Ointment	1	—
Jellied Veal	1	—
Lard	2	—
Milk	25	7
Salad Cream	1	—
Sausage	2	2
Sweets	1	—
Whisky	1	—
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 9

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES ADULTERATED OR
NOT UP TO STANDARD.

NAME OF SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	REMARKS
Milk. y 16·6 per cent. deficient in fat.		See x
„ x 10·0	„ „ „	Appeal to cow. re y
„ 11·6	„ „ „	Seller cautioned.
„ 3·3	„ „ „	„ „
„ 6·6	„ „ „	„ „
„ 3·2	„ „ „	„ „
„ 3·0	„ „ „	„ „

The milk samples below standard were due in one case to the cows producing inferior milk, and in the other cases due to careless handling of the milk, largely owing to failure to thoroughly keep it stirred.

Sausage.—"A" contained 90 parts per million of undeclared preservative. (See "B.")

"B" contained 120 parts per million of undeclared preservative.

Formal Sample re "A" ordered to pay £1/5/- costs.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food*.—This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester. No examinations were made during 1937.

(e) *Nutrition*.—A number of posters, illustrated in colours, indicating the importance of milk in the diet of children, have been received. These have been exhibited in the district.

(f) *Shell Fish (Molluscan).*—There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

Shell fish are not marketed regularly anywhere in the district.

Mussels and shrimps are sold in the area by hawkers from Runcorn. The mussels are obtained from the Dee estuary at Neston and Parkgate. The shrimps are obtained from the Mersey estuary.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is a summary of notifiable infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during the year 1937 :—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	23	21	—
Diphtheria ..	27	23	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—
Pneumonia ...	42	—	21*
Erysipelas ...	13	4	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	—

On 1st April, 1937, Ophthalmia Neonatorum became notifiable direct to the County Medical Officer, the County Council being the Infant Welfare Authority for this area.

On 1st October, 1937, Puerperal Fever became notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia.

Of the 21 deaths from Pneumonia, only eight of these had been previously notified. This shows that the real incidence of pneumonia was very much higher than was indicated by the number of notifications, and that notification was not satisfactory.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL REPORT.

	Runcorn Rural.	Other District.
No. of Patients in Hospital, 1st Jan., 1937	4	—
„ admitted during 1937 ...	53	19
„ discharged during 1937 ...	52	14
„ died in Hospital during 1937	4	1
„ in Hospital 31st Dec., 1937	1	4
No. of Scarlet Fever cases		
admitted during 1937 ...	21	19
„ Diphtheria cases „ „	23	—
„ Erysipelas cases „ „	4	—

Average length of stay in days—32.3 days.

One case of Measles was admitted and discharged during the year.

One case for observation was admitted and discharged during the year.

An analysis of total notified cases of infectious diseases is given as follows :—

Scarlet Fever.—23 cases were notified in 1937, compared with 109 cases in the previous year. Cases exhibiting sore throat, but little or no rash, and followed by desquamation were noted.

Diphtheria.—27 cases were notified in 1937 compared with 36 cases in the previous year. Most of the cases occurred in Frodsham during November. The outbreak was sporadic in type and as far as could be ascertained the cases were quite unrelated.

The incidence of diphtheria throughout the year is shewn as follow :—Jan. 2; Feb. —; Mar. 1; Apr. —; May —; June 5; July 2; Aug. 1; Sept. 3; Oct. 1; Nov. 10; Dec. 2.

Pneumonia.—42 cases of Pneumonia were notified during 1937 compared with 25 in the previous year. Most of these cases were associated with the epidemic of Influenza which invaded this area during January and February.

The incidence of Pneumonia throughout the year is shown as follows :—

Jan. 16; Feb. 10; Mar. 2; Apr. 2; May 3; June —; July —; Aug. —; Sept. 2; Oct. 2; Nov. 2; Dec. 3.

The age incidence is shewn on previous page.

Hospital Accommodation :—

A change in hospital policy has taken place during the year in order to comply with the County arrangements for co-ordination of hospital accommodation throughout the County.

Special arrangements have been made to accommodate cases from the Urban District, the Urban District providing ambulance transport. Considerable use of these facilities have been made during the year. Cases from other areas of

the County are received by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health provided there is a reserve of beds.

It is considered desirable to keep a reserve of beds to serve this area and the two orphanages and other resident institutions which lie within its boundaries.

Cases of Measles are occasionally admitted to Hospital where home conditions require it.

School intimations of disease, although not complete in this area, are of use, especially in mixed epidemics, and to check notifications.

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria :—

The Diphtheria Immunising Agent T.A.F. is supplied free by the Council to Medical Practitioners, and is obtainable from Messrs. Evans Sons Lcscher & Webb, Ltd., Runcorn. The Public Assistance Committee of the County Council have made arrangements for immunisation of all children admitted to the Institutions controlled by them. This is carried out at the Dutton Institution in this area. These facilities might well be extended to rate aided children resident in the area.

Immunisation is now provided for all children admitted to the Warrington Bluecoat School at Daresbury. All the Nursing Staff of the Isolation Hospital have been tested and immunised.

Owing to the prevalence of Diphtheria in adjoining districts in September it was decided to make an effort to increase the amount of immunisation done. Accordingly a circular letter was sent to all medical practitioners practising in the area reminding them of the facilities available and the necessary technique. At the same time a Public Notice was posted throughout the area in the following form :—

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN.
DIPHTHERIA.

This disease is prevalent in adjoining districts and its attacks are serious and dangerous, especially to young children.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN :-

That children who have been protected by one or more injections do not develop the disease.

PARENTS should consult their own Doctor
AT ONCE.

C. E. W. BOWER, M.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

20th November, 1937 .

As far as can be ascertained there has been no general response to this appeal, but it is encouraging to note that enquiries are being received and there appears to be a greater demand for immunising agent. It is unlikely that much progress will be made in this respect until a scheme is arranged for immunisation at schools or other centres in the district.

No action has been taken with regard to the use of Measles Serum for Prophylaxis or Attenuation.

Undulant Fever.

A case of Gastro-enteritis in a cowkeeper occurred in November. A sample of blood sent for serum test indicated Brucella Abortus Infection.

Examination of the cattle by a County Veterinary Surgeon was arranged. A satisfactory report was received. No further cases occurred.

3. *Cancer.* — There were 49 deaths from cancer.
27 males and 22 females.

Year	Deaths from Cancer	Year	Deaths from Cancer
1920	27	1929	42
1921	30	1930	48
1922	31	1931	48
1923	44	1932	47
1924	53	1933	55
1925	38	1934	38
1926	35	1935	56
1927	36	1936	56
1928	45	1937	49

Radium treatment can be given at the Myrtle Street Hospital, Liverpool. Practitioners can obtain forms for the treatment of patients from the Medical Officer of Health, Sankey Street, Warrington. This district as a contributory area within the S.W. Lancashire, Cheshire and N. Wales branch of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, is entitled to this privilege for its residents. As this district is situated mid-way between Liverpool and Manchester, it would be advantageous if equal facilities for Cancer treatment were provided for its residents at either centre.

4. (a) *Prevention of Blindness*.—No action taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1935, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) *Tuberculosis*.—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925.—No action taken.

Public Health Act 1925, Section 62.—No action taken.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.—No action taken.

5.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Respirat'ry		Non-Respirat'ry		Respirat'ry		Non-Respirat'ry	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	...	—	—	2	5	—	—	—	—
15—25	...	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	4	1	2	—	3	2	—	—
35—45	...	1	3	—	1	3	1	—	—
45—55	...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	...	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—
65 and upwards...	...	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Totals	...	9	7	7	9	12	5	—	—

Chester County Council Laboratory—Sputum examinations :—

Positive 13 Negative 81 Total 94

Statement showing number of Tuberculosis Patients on the Register of the Runcorn Rural Area on 31st December, 1937.

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total All Forms	Population	No. per 1000 of Population
M	F	Total	M	F	Total			
62	55	117	62	54	116	233	30,405	7.66

NO. PER 1000 OF POPULATION.

Runcorn Rural	7.66
Rural Districts	6.24
Cheshire ...	6.92

C. E. W. BOWER, M.B., D.P.H.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health

31st March, 1938.

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year 1937.
Budworth District.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Twenty-fourth Annual Report.

During the year 1937 a total of 1,594 general inspections (details being in the tabular summary at the end of the Report) including 352 Housing enquiries, were carried out by me in the Budworth District, which now comprises 11 Parishes with an area of 19,231 acres, and a population of about 22,000.

I append notes on the chief items among the duties of my Office.

1. REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

A system of Refuse Removal and Disposal was arranged for the parish of Stretton during the year and a similar system is now being organised for the parish of Hatton.

This important work was again carried out satisfactorily on the Contract system under my supervision.

A small private system of Trade Refuse Removal was taken over by me on October 1st, being extended and improved. This is proving a boon to most tradespeople, and gives us proper control of storage, collection and disposal, with greatly improved sanitation.

Subsequent to consideration of the Direct Labour System, and starting October 1st, all parishes served were grouped together under one contractor, which, with other reorganisation, brought about a substantial reduction in cost and gave much better control.

Particulars of the work are given below :—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Ash Bin Refuse.</i>			<i>Closet Refuse.</i>
	Houses			Pails Pits
Appleton	573	—		
Budworth	109	56		
Grappenhall	1550	211	2	
Moore	152	61		
Stockton Heath ...	2154	17		
Stretton	106	—		
Walton	490	—		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	5,134	345	2	

Cost per year at December 31st (there are increases for new houses each quarter) was £2,150/15/9.

As 394 houses and five pail closets were added to the work in 1937, and the cost in 1936 was £2,315, the very substantial reduction is apparent. After deducting 347 closets at 8/6 per year, the approximate cost for ashbin refuse is 7/10 per house per year. The area covered is about 9,000 acres, population about 15,500, and approximately 4,100 tons of ashbin refuse dealt with in the year.

Refuse disposal is by land reclamation at Budworth, Moore and Thelwall, but the bulk of the bin refuse is now deposited in the Cobs Quarry, where for a time difficulty in performing proper "Controlled Tip" methods is being met with, until we can reach the bottom with the motor wagons to carry on with the 6-foot layers, as is necessary for a good tip. This quarry, however, is in a nicely isolated situation.

The cost of refuse disposal in 1937 was approximately £337.

The increase of approximately £100 during this year was due to the need for heavy soiling and other extra labour dealing with the Quarry Tip Fire, also extraordinary soiling work at the special Tip near Lumb Brook.

2. HOUSING.

286 dwelling-houses were inspected and recorded (159 in Stockton Heath, 110 in Grappenhall, 14 in Appleton and 3 in other Parishes).

175 defective houses were dealt with, and 163 repaired by the owners in each case after informal notice, twelve remaining for further action in 1938. Five houses were dealt with by demolition orders, four being demolished and one remaining for owner's undertaking to be carried out.

Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding).—A partial revision re changed tenancies and border-line cases was carried out in my area during November and December, so that the records are fairly up-to-date.

These records will need continuous revision and close attention to the "Permitted Numbers" where conditions arise to border-line cases. I made 352 enquiries during my revision, and by taking suitable action prevented overcrowding in a few cases. Four cases of overcrowding were found and dealt with as follows—one given Council house, and three licensed for temporary overcrowding.

Seven cases from 1936 were also relieved as follows—

- 4 Removed to larger houses.
- 2 Re-housed by the Council.
- 1 Inmates reduced.

This leaves eleven cases of overcrowding in my district, five of which are to be re-housed early in 1938, and six being licensed for mild temporary overcrowding.

3. WATER SUPPLIES.

Six samples of domestic water supplies were submitted for analysis, two supplies being satisfactory and the four unsatisfactory supplies dealt with as follows:—

Towns water laid on in three cases (one farm and three cottages).

Well repaired and cleansed in one case (two cottages).

4. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Milk.—Twelve samples were collected and submitted for examination at the Runcorn Laboratory, and all proved satisfactory respecting Tuberculosis. Four reports from outside authorities re high bacterial count and B. Coli in milk from my area were dealt with by visits to the farms, and tests, until a good clean milk was obtained.

Meat.—Thirty-four Notices of Slaughter were received respecting 139 pigs, and 119 pigs were inspected after slaughter. All were found good.

General.—There were eighty shops selling or preparing food of varying kinds and quantities, many being the usual General “Corner Shop.”

Bakehouses, Butchers’ Premises, Pork Shops, Fried Fish Shops, and other places where food is prepared or sold, were visited.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

26 Zymotic Inquiries were made, besides numerous calls and inquiries re Contacts and at the various schools affected. Five schools and 37 houses, with bedding, were disinfected. (This includes disinfection after Cancer, Tuberculosis, etc.).

6. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Thirty-eight inspections of Dairy Farms were carried out, and 49 visits to Milk shops. There are now 168 producers and 46 retailers registered, ten with premises in Warrington and two elsewhere, with 83 producers on the accredited list. Seven Cowshed improvements were carried out under my supervision, making 93 done since 1927.

Several other Dairy Farms improved under the accredited milk administration.

7. WORKSHOPS AND LICENSED PREMISES.

53 visits were made to Workshops. There are 58 Workshops registered (1 outworker).

There are 37 Petrol Stores, 1 Retailer of Special Milk, and 1 Knacker Yard, all licensed and kept under observation.

8. CANAL BOATS.

17 Boats were inspected at the Stockton Heath, Preston Brook and Norton Quays. No action was necessary and no infectious disease reported on the boats while in our District.

Inmates of the boats inspected:—

17 males, 19 females, 15 children.

9. SCHOOLS.

All the schools in my area were visited; a total of 28 visits being made. In case of one school, refuse storage-disposal was dealt with and improved.

10. SHOPS.

111 visits were made to shops and food stores during the year, and there is a total of 135 shops on the register, 85 of which sell food of varying kinds and quantities. About 26 only employ outside labour.

11. TABULAR SUMMARY.

Nature of Inspection.	No. of Inspections.	Informal notices.	Statutory notices.
Dwelling-houses (general)	319	100	7
Housing (No. of Inmates)	352	2	—
Schools	28	1	—
Camping Ground ...	5	2	—
Water Supplies ...	19	27	—
Defective Roofs, Gutters etc.	6	6	—
Refuse Removal—Disposal	333	44	—
Ashplaces, Earth Closets	93	31	10
Cesspools	28	19	—
House Drainage ..	28	30	2
Streets, yards, passages	10	11	—
Ditches—Brooks ..	13	20	—
Offensive Accumulations	6	6	—
Re Vermin, Rats etc. ..	15	14	—
Sewer Matters	9	11	—
Offensive Trades ...	6	1	—
Dairy Farms	38	18	2
Milk Retailers ...	49	1	—
Milk Tests—Inquiries ..	16	4	—
Workshops	53	3	—
Shops and Food Stores	111	—	—
Canal Boats	17	—	—
Zymotic Inquiries ...	26	—	—
Mortuary	4	—	—
Miscellaneous	10	5	—
Totals	1594	356	21

The very numerous revisits are not shown in the above table. 12 Houses remain for action under the Housing Acts, 2 Dairy Farm matters, and 5 ordinary cases for attention in 1938.

Yours faithfully,

“Northgate,”

Stretton,

Warrington.

January 22nd, 1938.

GEO. W. LLOYD,

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1937. Frodsham Area.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Runcorn Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Twenty-first consecutive Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

In doing so, I desire to bring to your notice the great amount of work carried out in my department. General inspections and enquiries of varying forms tax the time and energies of your Inspector, and without the help I have received by the very valuable assistance from the Clerk in the department, much of the work carried out could not have been done. Meat inspection, I find, calls for more time year by year, and is now a task that cannot be coped with along with the other duties of the department (note Section VII of my report). Refuse removals also claim ever increasing attention; cowsheds, dairies, etc., also require more constant attention. I am of the opinion that full consideration of the duties now attached to the department is overdue.

Appended herewith are notes of the work, along with a tabulated statement of the duties carried out during the past year.

1. WATER.

Eight samples of water have been submitted for examination and one proved unsatisfactory for domestic uses, namely Lower Hall Farm, Manley, pump and well supply. The Council are endeavouring to arrange to connect this farm to the Council's supply mains.

2. COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 251 milk producers in this area, and 71 retailers. Twelve samples of milk taken from retailers in the area were submitted for examination, eleven of which

proved negative for tuberculosis in milk. One proved positive for tuberculosis in milk, and the County Authorities dealt with this case. During the year improvements and reconstructions were carried out at 20 farms. There are now 134 accredited licences in the area.

3. PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

There are 44 licences held in the area. All premises have received periodical inspection and all licences renewed during the year.

4. FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 37 on the Register and these have been visited at regular periods. In two cases informal notices were issued and complied with.

5. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are six licensed and six registered slaughter-houses in the area. Visits and inspections have been very frequent during the year, and a very good standard has been maintained.

6. MEAT AND FOOD.

Bakehouses, meat shops and market stalls and all other places where food is prepared for sale or sold, have received regular inspection.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS.

During the year all licences for slaughtering and stunning of animals have been renewed to all holders of licences. The using of humane appliances is in general use in all slaughter-houses. During the year the total number of animals slaughtered in this area are as follows:—cows 1456, sheep and lambs 5564, pigs 3420. Whilst I am aware that it is part of the duties of your Sanitary Inspector, acting as Meat Inspector, to inspect all carcasses, if possible, I have to draw your attention to the fact that I have found it impossible to inspect all the carcasses owing to the pressure

of other duties. I have inspected 105 cows, 568 sheep or lambs, 1600 pigs. The carcasses of three cows and two pigs were condemned as unfit for food.

8. TUBERCULOSIS (CATTLE) ORDER.

As in 1936, the County Authorities have again carried out the post mortem examination of suspect tuberculosis, with the result that we have had 20 cases under the order during 1937. Fifteen of the carcasses were passed as fit for food and five cases were condemned as unfit for food.

9. HOUSING ACTS, 1925-30

Inspections have been carried out at 30 dwellings, revealing defects in 20 cases. Informal notices have been issued, and defects in 17 cases have been remedied, and the other three cases are receiving attention. I hope for an early completion of work required.

10. HOUSING OVERCROWDING ACT, 1935.

Constant attention on the border-line cases and re-visits to check up the changing of occupiers, etc., have caused very many visits to have been paid. I have made 143 enquiries during revision, and have found ten new cases of overcrowding, and that twelve cases of overcrowding have been relieved during the year. Of these cases an extension was made to one house, four cases were relieved through marriage of either daughters or sons, five by removals to larger houses, and two by reductions in families.

11. REFUSE REMOVALS.

Removal of refuse is carried out by contract in the parishes of Halton, Helsby, Frodsham, Preston Brook and Sutton, and Manley. All the contractors have worked satisfactorily. The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping on land leased to the Council. The cost of refuse removal varies in each parish. Frodsham $6/8\frac{1}{2}$ per house, Helsby $7/2$ per house, Halton $11/3\frac{1}{2}$, Manley $8/3$, Preston Brook and Sutton $13/5\frac{3}{4}$ per house. The variation is shown greatest in parishes where a sewage system is absent.

Details of the number of houses and cost are shown below—

Parish	No. of houses.	No. of cubic yds. of refuse	Cost of Removals.		
			£	s.	d.
Halton	380	1014	222	4	0
Helsby	662	1179	268	16	0
Frodsham	1331	12055	448	8	7
Preston Brook and Sutton	290	2093	*195	12	0
Manley	126	312	52	0	0
Totals	2789	16653	£1187	0	7

* Nine months.

Average cost per House 8/5d $\frac{3}{4}$.

It is intended to commence refuse removals in the parishes of Kingsley, Norley, Aston and Dutton early in 1938.

The following tables will give information of the work carried out in my district during the past year :—

TABLE I.

No. of inspections and revisits to slaughter-houses	...	109
„ „ workshops and workplaces	...	59
„ „ bakehouses	... ..	38
„ „ dwelling houses and their appurtenances	... ..	318
„ Visits & inspections to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	... ..	455
„ Zymotic enquiries and revisits	... ..	58
„ Revisits during abatement of nuisances & defects		207

TABLE II.

No. of nuisances and defects found to exist during 1937	348
„ „ „ remedied during 1937	344
„ „ „ left over to 1938	4
„ informal and statutory notices issued during 1937	100
„ interviews held with persons responsible for abatements etc.	66

TABLE III.

Headings under which nuisances and defects were found :—

Water closets	...	...	...	...	11
Drains (blocked or defective)	...	...	...	...	80
Slopsinks and waste pipes	...	..	..	..	4
Eaves and fallspouts	...	...	...	...	5
Roofs	...	...	...	...	19
Privy closets, ash-bins and pails	...	...	...	...	181
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	6
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	9
Ditches and watercourses	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	21
Total					348

TABLE IV.

Disinfection of Premises, etc.--

No. of dwelling-house rooms disinfected during 1937	...	52
„ school class-rooms	„ „ „	15
„ beds removed for disinfection	„ „	18
„ other articles removed for disinfection	„	58
„ Zymotic enquiries	...	47
„ Revisits	...	11

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29th January, 1938.

1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES ..	..	..	..	193	163
1 Typhoid fever, etc.	..	..	..	—	—
2 Measles ..	..	..	..	—	—
3 Scarlet fever ..	..	..	..	—	—
4 Whooping cough ..	..	..	..	—	—
5 Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	—	3
6 Influenza ..	..	..	..	13	6
7 Encephalitis lethargica ..	..	..	..	—	1
8 Cerebro-spinal fever ..	..	..	..	—	—
9 Respiratory tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	12	6
10 Other tuberculous ..	..	..	..	1	1
11 Syphilis ..	..	..	..	1	—
12 General paralysis of insane, etc..	..	..	..	—	—
13 Cancer ..	..	..	..	27	22
14 Diabetes ..	..	..	..	1	4
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage ..	..	..	..	10	11
16 Heart disease ..	..	..	..	42	39
17 Aneurysm ..	..	..	..	—	—
18 Other circulatory ..	..	..	..	13	12
19 Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	7	3
20 Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	6	8
21 Other respiratory ..	..	..	..	1	1
22 Peptic ulcer ..	..	..	..	3	—
23 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ..	..	..	..	—	—
24 Appendicitis ..	..	..	..	1	2
25 Cirrhosis of liver ..	..	..	..	2	—
26 Other liver diseases ..	..	..	..	1	2
27 Other digestive ..	..	..	..	4	8
28 Nephritis ..	..	..	..	6	8
29 Puerperal sepsis ..	..	..	..	—	—
30 Other puerperal ..	..	..	..	—	—
31 Congenital causes, etc... ..	..	..	..	6	11
32 Senility ..	..	..	..	3	2
33 Suicide ..	..	..	..	3	—
34 Other violence ..	..	..	..	7	5
35 Other defined causes ..	..	..	..	23	8
36 Ill-defined causes ..	..	..	..	—	—

Miscellan.

Re

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS of MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH-RATES and CASE-RATES for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937

England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on *Weekly and Quarterly Returns*).

	Runcorn Rural District	England and Wales	125 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION					
BIRTHS :—					
Live	13.5	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3
Still	0.93	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54
DEATHS :—					
All Causes	11.4	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ..	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06
Diphtheria	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza	0.61	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38
Violence	0.48	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Scarlet fever	0.77	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09
Diphtheria	0.86	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93
Enteric fever	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.42	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44
Pneumonia	1.31	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS					
Deaths under 1 year of age	43	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis } under 2 years of age	0.00	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.97	Not available		
Others	0.00	2.26			
Total	0.00	3.23			
RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS (i.e. Live and Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.94	Not available		
Others	0.00	2.77			
Total	0.00	3.11			
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Puerperal fever	15.52	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15
Puerperal pyrexia					14.34

NOTE:—The number of notified cases of Puerperal Fever relate to the first thirty-nine weeks of the year only.
Cases occurring afterwards are classed to Puerperal Pyrexia and included accordingly.

